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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/990,076	11/21/2001	Cory O. Nykoluk	16513-8679	2127

21888 7590 10/02/2002

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EXAMINER

MAI, TRI M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3727

DATE MAILED: 10/02/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/990,076

Applicant(s)

NYKOLUK ET AL.

Examiner

Tri M. Mai

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the handgrip axis extending horizontally in a plane perpendicular to the wheel rotation axis must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential elements, such omission amounting to a gap between the elements. See MPEP § 2172.01. The omitted elements are: the shaft 142 and 160. Claim 1 recites the handle operative connected for pivoting movement about the two axes. However, the claim does not recite what elements are needed to enable the pivoting movement as set forth.

In claim 14, it is unclear what comprises the connecting means in claim 14, the specification fails to define what comprises the connecting means as set forth by the claim. A

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proper response to this rejection must include a statement of what comprises the connecting means as set forth by the claim.

With respect to the hand grip axis extending horizontally in a plane perpendicular to the wheel rotation axis, it is unclear what plane the claim is referring to. A proper response to this rejection must include a drawing showing the relationship as set forth. Furthermore, it is unclear what axis is the hand grip axis. The claim previously recited two axes. It is unclear whether this "hand grip axis" is the same as one of the previously recited two axes.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in-

(1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or

(2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

4. Claims 1-8, 14- are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Sadow et al. (6193033). Sadow teaches a piece of luggage having a plurality of wheels, an arm portion 50, a towing handle 54 as claimed. Note the two pivoting pins in Fig. 13, and the portion joining parts 50 and 54 is the intermediary member as claimed.

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To the degree that there is not structural elements set forth in the claims for pivoting movement as set forth above in the 112, 2nd paragraph rejection. The handle at portion 58 and the arm at portion 60 have a plurality of rotation axis as claimed.

5. Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Liang (5339934). Liang teaches a piece of baggage having a plurality of wheels, an arm portion 26, a towing handle 20 as claimed. Note the two rotating axes in Figs. 2A and 2B along the centerline of portion 28 and the pin Fig. 3.

6. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Chen (6434790). Chen teaches a handle having the two rotational axes about portion 40 and pin 51.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 9-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sadow in view of Liang (5464080). Sadow meets all claimed limitations except for the T-shaped handle. Liang teaches that it is known in the art to provide a T-shaped handle. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide a T-shaped handle in Sadow as taught by Liang to tow the luggage easily.

9. Claims 19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Liang (5339934) in view of Liang (5464080). Liang '934 teaches the moving of the handle such that the hand grip axis extents parallel to wheels as shown in Fig. 1. Liang '934 meets all claimed

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limitations except for the moving the handle 22 such that the axis of the handgrip axis extends horizontally in a plane perpendicular to the wheel rotation axis. Liang '080 teaches that it is known in the art to provide a handle that is rotating as shown in Fig. 10. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide a handle in Liang '934 as taught by Liang '080 to tow the luggage easily.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tri M. Mai whose telephone number is (703)308-1038. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lee W Young can be reached on (703)308-2572. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703)305-3579 for regular communications and (703)305-3579 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)308-1148.

Tri M. Mai
Examiner
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September 16, 2002